

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 05909 201254Z
ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8994
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, IR, SP
SUBJ: VISIT OF KING CARLOS OF SPAIN

1. KING JUAN CARLOS OF SPAIN, ACCOMPANIED BY QUEEN SOFIA, MADE AN OFFICIAL STATE VISIT TO IRAN, JUNE 14-16. FROM WHAT THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN ABLE TO LEARN FROM THE SPANISH EMBASSY, PRESS REPORTS, AND IRANIAN SOURCES, THE VISIT WAS ESSENTIALLY PROTOCOLARY ALTHOUGH THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA, ACCORDING TO ONE SPANISH EMBASSY SOURCE, DID FIGURE PROMINENTLY IN THE PRIVATE TALKS BETWEEN KING CARLOS AND THE SHAH. NO OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED BUT TEHRAN'S ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS, ALLUDING TO PALACE SOURCES, SAID THAT KING CARLO'S DISCUSSION WITH THE SHAH CENTERED ON "BILATERAL COOPERATION, RELATIONS WITH CHINA, AND THE WEST'S RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION."

2. COMMENTING ON SPAIN'S COMMERCIAL TIES WITH IRAN, SPANISH EMBASSY SOURCE EXPRESSED GENERAL SATISFACTION ON THE STATE OF THESE RELATIONS. SPANISH EXPORTS TO IRAN TOTALED 140 MILLION DOLLARS IN 1976, 107 MILLION DOLLARS IN 1977, BUT SOARED TO 60 MILLION DOLLARS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1978. IN TERMS OF SPANISH BUSINESS PRESENCE IN IRAN, ONE FIRM, DRAGADOS Y CONSTRUCCIONES, SEEMS TO DOMINATE THE SCENE,
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HOLDING CONTRACTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SHIPYARD IN THE PERSIAN GULF PORT OF BANDAR ABBAS, THREE APARTMENT BUILDINGS IN IRAN, PLUS SEVERAL PROJECTS FOR THE NATIONAL IRANIAN OIL COMPANY. IRAN SUPPLIES ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF SPAIN'S CRUDE OIL IMPORTS, FOLLOWING SAUDI ARABIA, WHICH IS THE MAJOR SUPPLIER (36 PERCENT).

3. AN IRAN-SPAIN JOINT COMMISSION WAS FORMED IN 1975 TO PROMOTE COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BUT HAS BEEN LARGELY DORMANT. SOURCES WITHIN THE GOI'S MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE SAY THAT IRAN IS BECOMING MORE SELECTIVE IN ENERGIZING ITS APPROXIMATELY 40 JOINT COMMISSIONS AND IT DOES NOT SEEM AT THIS JUNCTURE THAT IRAN'S COMMISSION WITH SPAIN HAS BEEN SELECTED FOR ANY PARTICULAR ATTENTION. THE IRAN-SPAIN JOINT COMMISSION HAS NOT YET MET IN ITS THREE YEARS OF EXISTENCE BUT THE SPANISH EMBASSY WOULD LIKE A MEETING IN EARLY JULY. THUS FAR, THERE HAS BEEN NO RESPONSE FROM THE GOI.
NAAS

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